

REMARKS

Claims 36, 37, 39-46, 48-54 and 56-60 are pending. Claims 51-54 and 56-60 have been allowed. Claims 36, 37, 39, 41-46 and 48-50 are rejected. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 36-37, 39, 43, 45-46, 48 and 49 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US 2,896,618 (Schaefer). Applicant amends claim 36 to further clarify that the major surface of the fluid control film comprises a plurality of microreplicated channels.

The Examiner equates the depressed areas **13** of Schaefer to the microreplicated channels of claim 36 (p 2, Office Action dated 02/05/09). FIGS. 2 and 3 of Schaefer clearly show depressed areas **13** are associated with corrugated pad **10**. Corrugated pad **10** is separate and distinct from film **11** (column 2, lines 38-41 of Schaefer). Schaefer does not teach or suggest that a major surface of film **11** comprises microreplicated channels. To the contrary, Schaefer discloses that film **11** is thin and lubricious (column 2, lines 39-40), which is defined as having a slippery or *smooth* quality (Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary).

In summary, Schaefer does not teach or suggest a medical treatment article comprising fluid control film component having at least one major surface, the major surface comprising a plurality of microreplicated channels that extends along the major surface. Therefore, claim 36 is patentable under 35 USC 102(b) over Schaefer.

Claims 37, 39, 43, 45, 46, 48, and 49 each add additional features to claim 36 and, thus, are likewise patentable over Schaefer.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 41-42, 44 and 50 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2,896,618 (Schaefer).

Claim 36 is patentable over Schaefer for at least the reasons given above. Claims 41, 42, 44, and 50 each add additional features to claim 36 and, thus, are likewise patentable over Schaefer.

All outstanding objections and rejections are believed to have been met and overcome. If a telephonic conference with Applicants' undersigned representative would be useful in advancing the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (651) 736-7430. A notice of allowance for all pending claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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